

**San Francisco Estuary Project
Implementation Committee Meeting**
Friday, February 4, 2005
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Elihu M. Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA

Meeting Summary

The meeting began at 10:00 AM

1. Introductions/Approval of November 4, 2004 Meeting Summary

Larry Kolb, Chair, Implementation Committee

A round table of introductions was made. Mr. Steve Moore, SF Water Board's Planning/Policy Division, was the meeting chair in Mr. Kolb's absence. On ii 3. CCMP Implementation – Geographic Subcommittees Reports C. North Bay Geographic Subcommittee, Mr. Morat asked if the meeting summary identified the restoration site by the correct name. Ms. Salzman commented that she believed "Black Point Restoration site" is correct. The summary was approved. A 2005 roster of Implementation Committee and Interested Parties was made available.

2. Public Comments

Any Member of the public may address the Implementation Committee (IC) on any matter regarding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Time is limited to three minutes per person.

3. CCMP Implementation – Dredging and Waterway Modification

A. Sand Mining in the San Francisco Estuary – Brian Mulvey, NOAA/Brenda Goeden, BCDC

Discussion: Mr. Mulvey and Ms. Goeden provided detailed information about SF Bay Delta sand mining locations; equipment and methods; Essential Fish Habitat and Endangered Species Act concerns; Marine Sand Mining Study; management issues and Subtidal Goals. Sand is mined by several companies in three Estuary locations: Central Bay, Carquinez Strait and Suisun Bay. The State Lands Commission grants public lease permits that are subject to the EIS/EIR process. While the lease values are unknown, royalties per cubic yard are paid to the state. Dr. Connor asked why dredging is done in shallow rather than deep water? Mr. Earl Bouse, Vice President, Hanson Permanente Cement, (earlbouse@aol.com) said that coarser sand, which is a better construction product, is located in shallow and high velocity current areas where the sand is naturally replenished. Suisun Bay sand is a finer texture and the Central Bay is coarser. October 2004 Hanson Environmental, Inc. published Assessment & Evaluation Of The Effects Of Sand Mining On Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Populations of Central San Francisco Bay And The Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary, which can be found at http://www.hansonenvironmentalinc.com/reports/Sand_Report_October_2004. The study recommended that additional research is needed on a number of issues including, a bathymetric survey, sediment dynamics budget, reference sites and a re-evaluation of current management. A 2004 USGS Report has excellent current and historical information on distribution of sand entering the Bay. Ms. Goeden provided an overview on BCDC's efforts to update the Subtidal Goals for the Bay. Some issues to be addressed include sediment recruitment, erosion processes, dredging and flow events (from Delta), destabilization of shallow water, and impacts to fish habitat. In summary, committee members were briefed about the scope and impact of Bay dredging.

Action: Members requested the web address (above) and that additional discussion on Subtidal Goals be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda

4. SFEP Issues/Activities

A. Draft 2005-06 SFEP Work Plan and Budget – Marcia Brockbank, SFEP, asked if members had any questions on the draft work plan provided in the meeting packet. She asked that members review it and provide any comments to her by the end of February. After taking comments from the IC members, the work plan will be sent to the SFEP Executive Council for approval and the final work plan will be presented to the committee at the May meeting. Ms. Brockbank commented that the 28 NEPs each receive approximately \$500,000 through the Clean Water Act Section 320 authorization. Of SFEP's funds, about \$300,000 is spent on partial funding of staff, the newsletter and other essential costs, leaving about \$190,000 in discretionary funds (see page 26 for the recommended distribution of funds). Members discussed Subtask 11.5 – Implementation Committee Focus on

Sediment and Subtidal Resources. Some members questioned the effectiveness of spending \$18,000 on this subtask and suggested adding the funds to another subtask, such as invasive species issues. Other members preferred to maintain the support for funding a sediment and subtidal resources activity.

Action: The committee directed Ms. Brockbank to provide two options for members' to vote on: 1) retain the sediment/subtidal focus, but provide a more detailed task and product; and 2) add \$18,000 to one of the invasive species activities that will provide a more robust outcome with the added funds. Ms. Brockbank will email the options to members, requesting their vote by the end of February.

- B. **CCMP Biennial Review** – *Marcia Brockbank, SFEP* referred members to the Implementation Review Schedule and background information in the meeting packet. The purpose for the review is to evaluate NEPs on their CCMP implementation efforts and to determine their eligibility to receive continued funding from EPA. February 28th is the deadline for submitting Implementation Review materials to EPA. There will be an on site visit to SFEP by a review team and Ms Brockbank asked for assistance from IC members for the site visit. Mistert Smith and Morat and Ms. Salzman volunteered to help.
- C. **2005 State of the Estuary Conference** – *Karen McDowell, SFEP*, reported that the new dates for the State of Estuary Conference are October 4-6 at the Oakland Kaiser Convention Center. In a few months fundraising efforts will begin as the conference is financed by sponsors and registration fees. Ms. Joan Patton will coordinate fundraising and will ask for solicitation letter sponsor names and addresses. SFEP is interested in knowing of any budget deadline dates. Dr. McDowell is available at 622-2398 or KmcDowell@waterboards.ca.gov for SOE Planning comments or questions.

5. **Bay Area Water Forum (BAWF) Activities** – *Cindy Darling, CALFED/Ted Smith, Friends of the Estuary*

A. **Update on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Bay Region**

Discussion: Ms. Darling provided an overview of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) including: the purpose (to increase coordination in the region); State's interest; function and structure; and process. Prop 50 provides funds for the planning process and implementation. \$200 million in funds are available at \$50 million maximum per region. There are four components that all need to be integrated into one plan. These include: 1) water supply/water quality; 2) wastewater/water recycling; 3) flood control/stormwater; and 4) watershed/habitat. Ms. Salzman asked about open water priorities? Ms. Darling said open water issues may be considered if they are linked to water quality and protection. Ms. Riley said that BCDC, Coastal Conservancy, the Water Board, SFEI with consultants and stakeholders are working on the watershed plan component. Mr. Smith attends the BAWF meetings and thanked Ms. Darling for her valiant efforts to unify competitive and diverse water quality and resource issues and managers. Ms. Salzman asked if money would be available for restoration projects? Water supply, quality and multiple benefit projects are preferred project types to receive funding.

Action: BAWF activities need to be tracked. February 23rd is the next BAWF meeting.

6. **CCMP Implementation – Research and Monitoring** – *Mike Connor, SFEI*

A. **Report on Ecosystem Indicators/Performance Measures January 26th Workshop**

Dr. Connor reported that Lynne Trulio, Lead Scientist for the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, discussed sediment issues at a December 2004 workshop. He provided information on the Jan. 26th Indictors Workshop, sponsored by SFEP, SFEI, and EPA. Dr. Connor was impressed by the State Agencies, especially CALFED's willingness to contribute to this effort. A workshop summary and draft strategy report are part of the workshop action plan. Mr. Morat said that the meeting attendance was superb and a high level of interest was generated. EPA may provide support through Section 104 grants.

7. **SFEP/CALFED Activities**

- A. **CALFED Update on programs and budget** – *Cindy Darling/Dan Ray, CALFED* In a discussion about the 10-Year CALFED Finance Plan, Ms. Darling said that cost sharing options include water user surcharge/fees to finance portions of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The CALFED solicitation process for Restoration Monitoring and the Science Program received many more proposals requesting far more funds than available. Given the State Budget Deficit, the CALFED budget is still an unknown – quantity. The Federal allocation has been less than what was written in the ROD.

B. **2005 Small Grant Awards**, *Carol Thornton, SFEP*, reported a successful third year. Ms. Thornton thanked Misters Perrone and Morat and Ms. Brockbank for serving on the selection committee. \$100,000 in grants were shared by 13 finalists from a pool of 32 proposal applicants. Geographic location, type of project (restoration or education) and environmental justice were part of the selection criteria. A list of Small Grant Awardees was included in the packet. The next cycle of Small Grants includes September's Request for Proposals Announcement, November's Review/Selection and December's funds disbursement/project start ups.

C. **Follow-up on letter requesting funds for wetlands protection** – *Arthur Feinstein, Audubon* Ms. Brockbank said that Mr. Kolb received an inquiry from the Governor's Office about the wetlands protection letter.

8. Possible Items and Assignments for May 6, 2005 Meeting Agenda

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| • Mercury and tidal marsh restoration | • TMDL progress report |
| • Update on invasive species issues | • Salts ponds restoration |
| • Cattle grazing management and grazing practices | • Spartina activities |
| | • Subtidal Goals |

9. Announcements and Adjourn

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- B. Meeting at US FWS Mare Island, Vallejo May 6, 2005
- C. Ms. Huning announced that March 1st Joint Venture will be meeting with State Legislators in Sacramento. A planning meeting is scheduled for February 17th.
- D. March 6-10, 2005 Ms. Brockbank with SFEP staff will be in Washington, DC for annual ANEP/EPA Conference and meeting with Federal legislators. Ms. Torliatt will also join SFEP on their visit with Representative Woolsey.
- E. March 17th from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM a public memorial service for Jean Auer will be held at the Commonwealth Club
- F. August 5th is the date for the CCMP Workshop here in Room 2 in the Elihu M. Harris Building.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM

Meeting Dates

May 6th, US FWS Mare Island Vallejo
August 5th, CCMP Workshop, Elihu M. Harris Building, Oakland
November 4th, Elihu M. Harris Building, Oakland